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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that St. Bernard Parish would receive \$41,607,039 in federal disaster aid grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants will reimburse the parish for disaster relief costs.

**"The people of St. Bernard Parish have been working hard to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and I am pleased FEMA is recognizing their efforts,"** said Melancon. **"I will continue to hold the federal government's feet to the fire on their obligation to help us rebuild and prepare for future storms."**

The following grants were announced today for St. Bernard Parish:

- \$6,662,130 for Disaster Victim Housing. Catastrophic damage in St. Bernard Parish created an urgent need to house disaster victims. These Public Assistance funds reimburse the parish for the costs to install, operate, maintain and demobilize travel trailers for disaster victims on individual private sites. This includes costs to evaluate the sites, connect electricity, sewer and water, set-up, transportation, and the installation of ramps to make trailers accessible when needed.
- \$19,392,432.13 for Essential Government Employee Housing. Hurricane Katrina damaged or destroyed homes of essential government employees in St. Bernard Parish. To ensure the continuity of essential government services, the parish will be reimbursed for the purchase and installation of housing units completed during February 2006.
- \$7,490,507 for Debris Management and Removal. High winds and the storm surge generated a tremendous amount of debris throughout St. Bernard Parish. These Public Assistance funds will reimburse the parish for debris management and the removal of vegetative, construction, and demolition debris as well as white goods (refrigerator and other household appliances) from December 24, 2005, and January 20, 2006.
- \$6,206,391 to St. Bernard Parish School Board for Water Removal and Pest Extermination. High winds and heavy rain from Hurricane Katrina severely damaged the roof and windows of the buildings of the Nova Academy and the Joseph J. Davies Elementary School and caused water damage throughout the facilities. The rain coupled with floodwaters which remained in the building for an extended period of time caused mold to grow throughout the building. After the water receded, the building became infested with snakes and other

vermin. These Public Assistance funds are for the removal of water and porous materials throughout the building that contribute to mold growth and also for the eradication of any infestations.

- \$1,855,579 for Parish Government Temporary Office Units. High winds and storm surge from the hurricane flooded and destroyed the St. Bernard Parish government complex, rendering the parish unable to conduct necessary governmental activities. These Public Assistance funds are to reimburse the parish for the purchase and installation of seven temporary office units. These temporary units will provide space for the functional operation of the Purchasing, Finance, Department of Recovery, Information, and Economic Development departments of the parish, as well as the Parish Council and Voter Registration departments.

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